

From: John Price [jrprice@epix.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2010 11:33 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed outdoor wood burning furnace restrictions.

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

My name is John Price; I have an outdoor wood fired furnace that I have had for some time. I, after extensive research, purchased this unit in order to heat my home and replace an existing wood stove that already serviced the home. I assumed great cost in replacing the indoor unit, but with the peace of mind that this would more efficiently heat my home, and would give me great peace of mind for the safety of my family by having this unit outdoors. I took into account the wind direction, and the relative distance from neighbors, all that I felt was prudent before placing this unit. While this unit may be within 150 feet from the nearest property corner, my nearest neighbors dwelling is downhill and to the southeast some 300 feet or so from the unit. The wind rarely blows to the Southeast, and we have nearly 10 acres of land. I picked the furthest possible point so as to allow any smoke drift to blow to the Northeast across the bulk of our own property. The savings from this unit by not only heating our home, but also our domestic hot water, and pool in the summer, gives us tremendous savings each month by not having to purchase fossil fuels from some Third world country. We have an abundance of wood found right on our own property, one of our reoccurring natural resources. With the State's deregulation of electricity, it also figured into my purchase knowing the savings of not having to heat water with electricity for a family of five since the state has allowed deregulation to expire, would also give us tremendous further savings. While we have no yet "broke even" in savings versus purchase price over time these realized savings will begin to save us money in perhaps as little as 4 to 5 years.

Our good Governor had made us promises of property tax relief by way of slots gambling, which has also not come to pass. The extent he promised while campaigning has never come to pass. With the volatile state of heating oil and propane, the unknown of electricity, the rising property taxes, I find it almost disgraceful that the Board would consider a blanket policy like this to pass to homeowners in a time of clears recession and hardship. A proposal to cover all outdoor wood fired units whether purchased recently or up to 20 years ago. When I purchased this unit these proposals were not in place. The costs associated with the changes proposed would be burdensome, and do little to nothing to change the environment where I use my outdoor wood furnace. To not implement the changes just going forward to new consumers, and grandfather in those with existing units, would be no different than requiring a owner of an automobile to get better gas mileage out of their vehicle. While that could be done, it would be costly and over burdensome to someone who already purchased a vehicle with no restrictions and had a realized cost associated with that purchase and operation.

In closing my Central Boiler Furnace makes no more air pollution, than my old wood stove inside my house did, and no more air pollution than my vehicle does. The practice of burning wood to heat a dwelling goes back beyond even the pioneers, but perhaps the dawn of time nearly. It uses one of America's only natural renewable

resources. I would ask the Board to consider the costs to the consumers who have already purchased these units and use them in a responsible manner.

John Price

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